I CLAIM:

1. A method of making a colored automotive trim product comprising the steps of:

extruding an approximately planar sheet including at least a colored layer, the color layer including color pigment material and metallizing material therein;

positioning the approximately planar sheet in a vacuum-forming apparatus;

vacuum-forming the sheet into a three-dimensionally shaped preform;

providing the preform in a cavity of an injection molding apparatus;

injecting heated semi-molten or flowable material into the cavity of the injection molding apparatus so that the semi-molten material bonds to the preform to form a three-dimensionally shaped article;

removing the shaped article from the injection molding apparatus; and

using the shaped article as at least part of an exterior trim product for a vehicle.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said extruding step further comprises extruding the approximately planar sheet so as to include the color layer and a clear coat layer that is substantially transparent to visible light.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said extruding step further comprises extruding the approximately planar sheet so as to include the color layer, the clear coat layer, and a tie layer located between the color layer and the clear coat layer.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said extruding step further comprises extruding the approximately planar sheet so as to be inclusive of the color layer, the clear coat layer, and a tie layer, wherein the color layer is disposed between the tie layer and the clear coat layer.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of laminating a clear coat layer on the color layer after said extruding step so that the sheet positioned in the vacuum-forming apparatus includes the color layer and the clear coat layer.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said laminating step includes at least one of: (i) laminating the clear coat layer directly on the first layer so that the color and clear coat layers contact one another; and (ii) laminating the clear coat layer on the color layer with a tie layer disposed between the color and clear coat layers.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said extruding step includes extruding the sheet so that the sheet includes the color layer, a first tie layer on a first side of the color layer, a second tie layer on a second side of the color layer, and a substantially transparent layer on the first side of the sheet, whereby the first tie layer is disposed between and promotes bonding of the color layer and the substantially transparent layer.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said extruding step includes extruding the sheet so that the sheet includes the color layer and a first tie layer on a first side of the color layer; and

the method further comprising the step of laminating a second tie layer and a substantially transparent layer on a second side of the color layer following said extruding step, so that the second tie layer promotes bonding of the substantially transparent layer to the color layer.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the metallizing material is approximately uniformly distributed throughout the color layer, and the metallizing material includes at least one of: metallic flake pigments, aluminum flakes, nickel flakes, nickel-chrome flakes, and mica flakes.

10. A method of making a colored automotive trim part comprising the steps of:

providing an at least partially extruded sheet including at least an extruded color layer including color pigment and metallizing particles;

providing the sheet in a cavity of an injection molding apparatus;

injecting semi-molten material into the cavity of the injection molding apparatus so that the semi-molten material bonds to the sheet to form a three-dimensionally shaped article;

removing the shaped article from the injection molding apparatus; and

using the shaped article as, or in the manufacture of, an exterior trim part for a vehicle.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said injecting step further comprises injecting the semi-molten material into the cavity of the injection molding device so that the semi-molten material deforms the sheet into the three-dimensionally shaped article.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said providing an at least partially extruded sheet step further includes providing the sheet so that the sheet includes the color layer, a first tie layer, and a substantially transparent

layer, wherein the first tie layer is disposed between the color layer and the substantially transparent layer.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said providing an at least partially extruded sheet step further includes providing the sheet so that the sheet includes a second tie layer, wherein the color layer is located between the first and second tie layers.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said providing an at least partially extruded sheet step further includes providing the sheet so that the sheet includes a removable protective layer, wherein the substantially transparent layer is located between the removable protective layer and the color layer.

15. A method of making an article for use in the manufacture of a colored exterior vehicle trim part, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet including an extruded color layer, the extruded color layer including color pigment material to color the sheet and metallizing material substantially uniformly distributed throughout the color layer;

thermo-forming the sheet into a three-dimensionally shaped preform so that the preform is shaped

so as to approximately match in shape a contour of at least a portion of a die of an injection molding apparatus;

providing the preform in a cavity of the injection molding apparatus;

injecting heated flowable material into the cavity of the injection molding apparatus so that the heated flowable material bonds to the preform in the cavity to form a three-dimensionally shaped colored article; and

removing the shaped colored article from the injection molding apparatus.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

providing the sheet with the color layer, a substantially transparent layer, and a first tie layer disposed between (i) the color layer, and (ii) the substantially transparent layer.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of providing the sheet with the color layer, the substantially transparent layer, the first tie layer, and a second tie layer, wherein the first and second tie layers are on opposite sides of the color layer.

18. An automotive trim part comprising:

an injection molded base substrate;

a layer system on said base substrate; and

wherein said layer system includes an extruded colored layer including color pigment material and metallizing particles therein.

19. The trim part of claim 18, wherein said layer system further comprises a substantially transparent layer, and wherein said extruded colored layer is located between said substantially transparent layer and said base substrate.

20. The trim part of claim 19, wherein said layer system further comprises a first tie layer disposed between said substantially transparent layer and said extruded colored layer.

21. The trim part of claim 20, wherein said layer system further comprises a second tie layer disposed on a side of said colored layer opposite said first tie layer, so that said second tie layer promotes bonding of said base substrate to said colored layer.

22. The trim part of claim 21, wherein said first and second tie layers are formed by extrusion along with said colored layer.

23. A method of making a colored automotive trim product comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet including at least a colored layer, the color layer including coloring material therein;

positioning the sheet in a vacuum-forming apparatus;

vacuum-forming the sheet into a three-dimensionally shaped preform;

providing the preform in a cavity of an injection molding apparatus;

injecting heated semi-molten or flowable material into the cavity of the injection molding apparatus so that the semi-molten material bonds to the preform to form a three-dimensionally shaped article;

removing the shaped article from the injection molding apparatus; and

using the shaped article as at least part of an exterior trim product for a vehicle.

24. An automotive trim part comprising:

a molded base substrate;

a layer system on said base substrate; and

wherein said layer system includes an extruded colored layer including color pigment material therein.

25. An automotive trim part comprising:

a molded base substrate;

a layer system on said base substrate; and

wherein said layer system includes an extruded colored layer including color pigment material and a plurality of different types of metallizing particles therein.

26. The trim part of claim 25, wherein the colored layer includes a first group of said metallizing particles of a first shape and a second group of said metallzing particles of a second shape different than the first shape.

27. The trim part of claim 25, wherein the colored layer includes a first group of said metallizing particles of a first material and a second group of said metallzing particles of a second material different than the first material.

28. A method of making an article for use in the manufacture of a colored exterior vehicle trim part, said method comprising the steps of:

extruding a polymer-based material inluding color pigment material and a plurality of different types of metallizing particles therein so as to form an extruded sheet including an extruded color layer;

thermo-forming the sheet into a three-dimensionally shaped preform so that the preform is shaped so as to approximately match in shape a contour of at least a portion of a die of an injection molding apparatus;

providing the preform in a cavity of the injection molding apparatus;

injecting heated flowable material into the cavity of the injection molding apparatus so that the heated flowable material bonds to the preform in the cavity to form a three-dimensionally shaped colored article; and

removing the shaped colored article from the injection molding apparatus.